

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 CU-02 NEA-10 /097 W

----- 036850

R 190758Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13383

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GROMYKO VISITS TO ASIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. MOSCOW 13361 B. MOSCOW 13045 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES THAT GROMYKO WILL VISIT JAPAN THIS YEAR SEEM DIM (REF A), WE THINK HE MIGHT CONSIDER SUCH A VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE IS THIN SO FAR, BUT WE THINK THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO WORRY PEKING AND TO PROSELYTIZE FOR THEIR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL.

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END SUMMARY.

2. THAI COUNSELOR THANOM NOPHAWAN SAID ON SEPTEMBER 17 THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS STILL NOT RECEIVED ANYTHING OFFICIAL FROM BANGKOK ON THE REPORTED INVITATION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI TO GROMYKO (REF B), BUT HAS NOW RECEIVED THAI PRESS REPORTS. THANOM BELIEVES THAT THE INVITATION IS VALID AND THAT IF GROMYKO ACCEPTS, THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE HANDLED BETWEEN THE THAI MFA AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

3. IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR AHMAD SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR GROMYKO TO VISIT KUALA LUMPUR, BUT SAID THAT "HE HAS A STANDING INVITATION." HE NOTED THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN HAD STOPPED OFF IN KUALA LUMPUR ENROUTE TO THE SINGAPORE MEETING OF SOVIET ASIAN AMBASSADOR LAST NOVEMBER, AND THAT FIRYUBIN HAD ALSO GONE TO HANOI AND VIENTIANE SHORTLY AFTER THE FALL OF SAIGON. AHMAND THOUGH THAT GROMYKO "WOULD HAVE TO" VISIT HANOI IF HE VISITED OTHER CAPITALS IN THE AREA.

4. INDONESIA COUNSELOR DJANI, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 17, SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY PROPOSALS FOR GROMYKO TO VISIT JAKARTA, BUT SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT SEEK SUCH A VISIT IN RETURN FOR FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK'S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST DECEMBER. "THEY ARE COURTING US," SAID DJANI, AND HE MENTIONED THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE IN MID-AUGUST AS AN EXAMPLE OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT (MOSCOW 1689). BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT QUITE SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA IS DEDICATED TO GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT, AND DISCLOSED THAT THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED AT THE MFA TO INQUIRE ABOUT CRITICAL REFERENCES TO INDONESIA AND ASEAN IN A PRAVDA ARTICLE OF AUGUST 31. (THE MFA OFFICIALS, SAID DJANI, BRUSHED ASIDE HIS AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN BY SAYING THAT THE ARTICLE REFLECTED ONLY THE OPINION OF ITS AUTHOR -- A FREQUENT SOVIET DODGE ON ISSUES THEY PREFER NOT TO CONFRONT.) DJANI CONCLUDED THAT MOSCOW'S INCREASING COMPETITION WITH PEKING OVER SOUTHEAST ASIA MIGHT WELL MOVE GROMYKO TO VISIT JAKARTA, PARTLY BECAUSE OF INDONESIA'S INHERENT IMPORTANCE IN THE REGION, AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE CHINESE HAVE THUS FAR HAD NO SUCCESS THERE EITHER.

5. COMMENT: NONE OF THESE COMMENTS ADD HARD INFORMATION TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE GROMYKO VISITS TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND GROMYKO TO SOUTHEAST ASIA EVEN IF THE VISIT PRODUCED FEW SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE THE FALL OF INDOCHINA, AND MOSCOW IS PLAINLY WORRIED BY WHAT IT SEES AS INCREASED CHINESE PENETRATION OF THE AREA. A VISIT BY GROMYKO COULD SERVE MOSCOW'S PURPOSE OF IRRITATING PEKING AND WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS A CHANCE TO CANVASS

AT HIGH LEVEL FOR THEIR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITIY SCHEME.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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